

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 154050  
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DRAFTED BY EA/K:FMISCH:LKD

APPROVED BY EA/K: MR. RICH

NSC - MR. ARMACOST

S/S - O: MR. CASTRODALE

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O 162142Z JUN 78 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T STATE 154050

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PPDC, KS, US

SUBJECT:LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PARK TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. ON JUNE 13, KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM DELIVERED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE THE JUNE 8 LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PARK, WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER OF MAY 17.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

(A) I HAVE RECIEVED YOUR KIND LETTER DELIVERED TO ME BY DR. BRZEZINSKI WHO CALLED ON ME ON MAY 25. I HIGHLY APPRECIATE YOUR EXPRESSION OF VIEWS AND DETERMINATION ON SOME OF THE IMPORTANT CURRENT MATTERS OF OUR MUTUAL INTEREST.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 154050

(B) I HAD A VERY USEFUL MEETING WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI, AND I BELIEVE THAT HIS VISIT THIS TIME HAS CONTRIBUTED TO FURTHER DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS QUESTIONS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO BOTH OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN COMMON ENDEAVORS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND NORTHEAST ASIA.

(C) I HAVE CLOSELY FOLLOWED YOUR RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN IN

CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA. YOUR STRONG PERSONAL URGES FOR AN EARLY CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF A BILL FOR THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARMED FORCES AND YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF APRIL 21 OF PARTIAL ADJUSTMENT IN THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND COMBAT UNITS FOR CURRENT YEAR REFLECT, I BELIEVE, THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AS WELL AS YOUR OWN POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE CAREFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF REDEPLOYMENT PLAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT YOU SHARE WITH ME THE VIEW ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE PRIOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THIS QUESTION AS IT AFFECTS THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ALLIED WITH THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE EXISTING MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

(D) I AM ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT YOU CONTINUE TO ADDRESS YOUR SPECIAL CONCERN FOR MILITARY COMPENSATORY MEASURES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARMED FORCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLANNED REDEPLOYMENT OF THE AMERICAN GROUND COMBAT FORCES IN KOREA.

(E) WITH REGARD TO OUR ENDEAVORS FOR REDUCING TENSIONS ON  
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SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 154050

THE KOREAN PENINSULA, I AM CONFIDENT THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAKING EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT UNDER THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES TO RESUME SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH IN THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 4, 1972. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL CONTINUE PURSUE THIS POLICY IN THE HOPE THAT THE NORTH WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO REALIZE THAT THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF KOREAN PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE REACHED THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH OF KOREA.

(F) I WISH TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS MY OBSERVATION, WHICH I EXPRESSED TO DR. BRZEZINSKI, THAT NORTH KOREA IS NOT SINCERE ENOUGH TO SEEK ANY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD SOLVING KOREAN PROBLEMS, THUS MAKING OUR OWN INITIATIVES RATHER UNILATERAL APPROACH. ACCORDINGLY, I APPRECIATE YOUR FIRM STAND AGAINST THE NORTH KOREAN ATTEMPTS TO HAVE A BILATERAL TALK WITH THE UNITED STATES.

(G) DR. BRZEZINSKI AND I HAD A FRANK DISCUSSION ON 'TRIPARTITE TALK PROPOSAL' AND WERE ABLE TO REACH BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE MATTER. I FELT MUCH HEARTENED BY THE FORTHRIGHT POSITION YOU TOOK WHEN DISCUSSING THE KOREAN

SITUATION RECENTLY WITH TITO AND CEAUSESCU, RESPECTIVELY.

(H) WHILE WE PURSUE THE SAME POLITICAL OBJECTIVE AS THAT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIELD OF DOMESTIC POLITICS, I

SERVE THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF MY PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF THE PERSISTENT DANGER OF MILITARY PROVOCATIONS FROM THE NORTH.

(I) THE PRECARIOUS PEACE THAT IS BEING MAINTAINED ONLY BY THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND HIGH DEGREE OF OUR OWN VIGILANCE AND DETERRENT POWER INEVITABLY DICTATES US HERE IN KOREA TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION WITH CERTAIN SPECIAL MEASURES WHICH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ENJOYING TOTAL SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 154050

PEACE AND STABILITY DO NOT HAVE TO EMPLOY. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS MY INTENTION TO SUSTAIN A STEADY AND SOUND EVOLUTION IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF OUR NATION IN PARALLEL WITH OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PURSUIT OF THE GOAL OF MODERNIZATION THAT I HAVE ESTABLISHED.

(J) ON RECEIVING YOUR PERSONAL LETTER, AND THROUGH MY TALK WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI, I FEEL GREATLY ENCOURAGED TO NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO HELP MAINTAIN PEACE AND AN ENVIRONMENT FOR STABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NORTHEAST ASIA AND THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO EXTEND YOUR FIRM SUPPORT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF OUR SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP AND THE PROMOTION OF OUR COMMON INTEREST IN ATTAINING OUR GOALS.

(K) PLEASE ACCEPT MY GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR PROVIDING ME WITH ANOTHER VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO REASON TOGETHER ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST AND BILATERAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE VISIT OF DR. BRZEZINSKI TO SEOUL.

(L) WITH MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS,

SINCERELY, PARK CHUNG HEE

END TEXT

3. THE WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT PLAN TO REPLY TO PRESIDENT PARK'S LETTER. NEWSOM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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